

MORNING PRAYER

Blessed are you, sovereign God, creator of heaven and earth, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your living Word, eternal in heaven, assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh, may the light of your love be born in us to fill our hearts with joy as we sing: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever. **Amen.**

PSALM 67

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer

<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Zech. 2:10-13 1</i>	<i>John 3:31-36</i>
<i>Sunday after Christmas</i>	<i>Isa. 62:6-7, 10-12</i>	<i>Matt. 1:18-25</i>
<i>Dec. 29</i>	<i>Isa. 12:1-6</i>	<i>John 7:37-52</i>
<i>Dec. 30</i>	<i>Isa. 25:1-9</i>	<i>John 7:53—8:11</i>
<i>Dec. 31</i>	<i>Isa. 26:1-9</i>	<i>John 8:12-19</i>
<i>Eve of Holy Name</i>	<i>Isa. 65:15b-25</i>	<i>Rev. 21:1-6</i>
<i>Holy Name</i>	<i>Gen. 17:1-12a, 15-16</i>	<i>John 16:23b-30</i>

REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYERS

The Church throughout the World
The World: for peace and goodwill among neighbors
Our Nation and her Leaders
Our Community
Grace Episcopal Church
My own Thanksgivings and Concerns

COLLECT

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

EVENING PRAYER

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

PSALM 66

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer

<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>1 John 4:7-16</i>	<i>John 3:31-36</i>
<i>Sunday after Christmas</i>	<i>Heb. 2:10-18</i>	<i>Matt. 1:18-25</i>
<i>Dec. 29</i>	<i>Rev. 1:1-8</i>	<i>John 7:37-52</i>
<i>Dec. 30</i>	<i>Rev. 1:9-20</i>	<i>John 7:53—8:11</i>
<i>Dec. 31</i>	<i>2 Cor. 5:16—6:2</i>	<i>John 8:12-19</i>
<i>Eve of Holy Name</i>	<i>Isa. 65:15b-25</i>	<i>Rev. 21:1-6</i>
<i>Holy Name</i>	<i>Col. 2:6-12</i>	<i>John 16:23b-30</i>

REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE SONG OF SIMEON

Lord, you now have set your servant free*
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

THE CHRIST HAS COME!

Christmas is one of the two central feasts of the Christian faith. It has not always been celebrated because it was not instituted in the Bible. But the vast majority of Christians throughout history have celebrated, but not perhaps with so many stores involved.

Christmas is called in the Book of Common Prayer the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ or Christmas. It is sometimes called the Feast of the Incarnation or our Lord Jesus Christ. I prefer the proper feast names to explain what we are celebrating. It is not just the birthday of Jesus, but rather what his birth represents.

Christ is called Emmanuel, *God is with us*. The Bible makes the point that God's point is to set us free from our sins and allow us to become God's children. (*John 1 and others*.) We could not get to God, so God came to us. God loves us and wants to be in relationship with us. That is the point of Christmas.

To serve a God who comes and is born of a woman, no small feat for either one, is to serve a God who is vulnerable and whose holiness is defined in love and mercy, rather than mere power and coercion. This message still seems radical. We expect God to win. We don't expect God to slip in by the servants' entrance and serve us manna. Yet, here is the Christ, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in the manger.

Christmas begins for us traditional Christians on Christmas Day. We celebrate the season of Christmas until January 6 the Epiphany. Hence, the twelve days of Christmas. So Merry Christmas. Peace on the Earth and Good Will toward all the World! and Let it begin with us. That is Grace as a way of Life.

Worship, Study, and Service with an ethic of Welcome. That is how we incarnate Grace. It's our way of life.



CHRISTMAS DAILY PRAYER

26 December – 2 January

*Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;
for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*
Luke 2:10, 11

CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. **Amen.**

O, Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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